

Minutes of School Committee Workshop 11/19/13

The Barrington School Committee held a workshop on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at the Administration Building. Dr. Shea called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Healy-Mills, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Fuller and Mr. Connor.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided the School Committee with an update relative to the proposed grant to be submitted by Mr. Michael Curry on behalf of East Bay Lacrosse for the installation of an athletic training wall at Barrington Middle School. The design plan has been approved by the Barrington Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Messore reported that additional consultation with the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust, Town of Barrington Building Inspector Robert Speaker and, if necessary, Town of Barrington Department of Public Works Director Alan Corvi will be necessary prior to consideration of the grant for approval by the School Committee. Mr. Messore stated that Mr. Michael Curry is aware of the status of the grant discussion at this time. Mr. Messore will provide the School Committee with an update relative to the status of the consultations at its next meeting.

Old Business from School Committee

Dr. Shea invited education consultants Ms. Brenda Clark and Ms. Denise Holliday to provide the School Committee with an update relative to their systems approach and process management in continuous improvement work in district.

Ms. Clark provided an overview of the implementation work in district with principals, assistant principals and participants in the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) teacher leadership group. Ms. Holliday shared digital images to illustrate the quality tools, including Plus/Minus/Delta, Consensogram and Issue Bin, that are being used by LEAPP teacher leaders in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Ms. Clark and Ms. Holliday led a discussion to clarify alignment of the work of the School Committee and the district. A critical component of continuous improvement work is the standardization of operational procedures and processes for sustainability. The Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) process, conducted to determine baseline data and then three times per year, will yield data for measurement of the success of the LEAPP program.

The School Committee identified the following beliefs about the definition of its work:

- Supporting important initiatives aligned to the strategic plan
- Arrive at a shared understanding of how to support these initiatives
- Develop board/School Committee goals
- Consider board/School Committee self-evaluation
- Define a continuous improvement approach to how the board/School Committee works
- Support reduction of barriers to implementing change
- Support drivers of change
- Align the budget to district priorities.

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The School Committee agreed that its incorporation of use of the Plus/Minus/Delta quality improvement tool at the end of every meeting would be beneficial to its work and would reflect its support of the LEAPP initiative work in district. The plan is to begin use of the tool at the next School Committee meeting and the Chair will facilitate implementation of specific steps to address minuses.

The School Committee noted that opportunities for future discussion relative to expanding its knowledge base and support of the continuous improvement process through its work could be facilitated at its governance workshop.

The governance workshop may include the following agenda topics:

- Annual review of the School Committee Norms and Standards
- Development of a process that incorporates use of the Norms and Standards for efficient School Committee meeting management
- Development of School Committee mission and goals
- Consideration of School Committee self-evaluation using a continuous improvement process framework and metric.

Ms. Clark has extensive experience with the systems approach and process management in continuous improvement in education and, if it is the will of the School Committee, offered to provide the School Committee with support and training in a workshop format for its professional development.

Ms. Clark and Ms. Holliday will be in district on January 14-15, 2014.

The School Committee will discuss next steps in this process at its next regular meeting on December 5, 2013.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the workshop at 9:35 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.